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1814

NEW LONDON

PETTYPAUG POINT

Brooklyn N Y
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1881

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No 21

Paul L Ford

REMARKS.

The American Squadron is anchored oppofite *Montville*, within 4 miles of *Norwich*, and confidered perfectly fafe from any attack.

FORT GRISWOLD,

commanded by Major Lee, is a ftrong picketed Fort, and erected on the fame cite where the fort was during the revolutienary war. It is a commanding pofition, with ftrong baftions fronting the river, and mounting extenfive batteries of heavy cannon 18 and 24 pounders; the height of this fort is about 150 feet above the level of the river, and fo fituated as to pour on the decks of the enemy's fhips in the channel, heavy fhot, grape and cannifter, with 2 furnaces for heating balls, which in a fhort time would fet them on fire or fend them to the bottom.

THE WATER BATTERY,

is juft below *Fort Griswold* and is alfo a command-

ary Officers, and has ſerved under MONTGOMERY and BUTLER; he has ſeen much ſervice and is every way calculated to promote the diſcipline of his corps, and to render important ſervice to his Country. He has all the activity of a young man of 30 years of age, a man of known courage, prudent, yet energetic, and as a further recommendation of this gentleman he is a ſtaunch republican and a firm friend of the adminſtration in *words* and *actions*. If he had been poſſeſſed of the controuling power over our troops at the time of the attack on Pettipaug the troops would not have advanced from the garriſons at the late hour they did on that occaſion to attack the enemy. If Col. Benjamin had received information of the enemy's attack at 10 o'clock he would not have delayed their march till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He would not have waited till the laſt hour before he marched the troops. He would have headed them himſelf and every man of the enemy would have been ſecured, and this is the general opinion amongſt the moſt reſpectable people in New-London. He has no doubts about the juſtice of the war; he is no enemy to the adminiſtration; he does not revile them on all occaſions as ſome other officers do; he will not favour the eſcape of the enemy; he would not have refuſed the citizens a few pieces of flying artillery to attack the enemy if they had called upon him.

THE BLOCKADING SQUADRON,

confifting (generally as ftationary fhips) of the La Hogue 74, frigate Statira and Nimeon, were at anchor on Friday 15th ult. about 7 miles from New-London infide of Fifher and Plumb Iflands. They occafionally up anchor and ftand in under full fail for about a mile, no doubt for the purpofe of exciting alarm at New-London, but the people have got over ufelefs fears as they have full reliance on the protection of the forts, which no doubt are ample fecurity againft any attack of the enemy.

N. B. At the entrance of the Harbor will be perceived a little Island, with a tree upon it, which very much resembles a *Torpedo.* It is two miles from *Fort Trumbull*, and such good marksmen are they at the Fort, that they literally took a limb off the tree by a cannon shot.

PETTYPAUG AFFAIR.

The foul ftain fixed forever on the prieft-ridden State of Connecticut, by the daftardly conduct of the inhabitants, in the affair at *Pettypaug*, will be recorded on the page of hiftory to their everlafting fhame and difgrace. That 150 men, from the enemy's fhips, fhould be permitted to land and deftroy fo much property, in open day [illegible] efiftance, can be accounted for in [illegible] than

by the debaſed ſtate of the public mind in that State. Although *Massachusetts* is ſunk in diſgrace by the deleterious efforts of a vile and unprincipled faction, yet ſhe is not yet quite ſo loſt to honor, as to hold up one cheek to be ſmote, to ſave the other; or to make a daſtardly bargain with the enemy, to give up their valuable ſhips, to ſave a few pitiful hamlets on the ſea-ſhore. Shame, ſhame upon ſuch conduct. Let the war be juſt or unjuſt, no people ever ought to diſgrace themſelves by a miſerable and cowardly truce with the enemy.

"The blockade of New London was kept up in 1814, and as early as April a party of British seamen and marines, in several small vessels (each armed with a 9 or 12 pounder), under the Command of Lieutenant Coote, of the Royal Navy, went up the Connecticut River in the evening, and at four o'clock the next morning, (April 8, 1814) landed on Pautopaug Point, seven miles from the Sound, spiked the heavy guns found there, and destroyed twenty two vessels, valued at one hundred and sixty thousand dollars. At ten o'clock they went down the river two or three miles to Brockway's Ferry, where they indulged in similar incendiary sport. In the mean time a body of Militia, with some marines and sailors from Decatur's vessels in the Thames, under Captain Jones and Lieutenant Biddle, gathered on the shore and endeavored to cut off their retreat, but, under cover of darkness that night, and with the silence of muffled oars, they escaped."

(Lossings Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812. Chap. 38 p. 828.)

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